

HONORING THE LIFE OF MEGAN
ELIZABETH BARRON

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Megan Elizabeth Barron, who recently passed away on September 10, 2015, at the age of 24. Megan was an extraordinary person, and she will always be remembered as a young woman who lived her life with purpose and great dedication to her family, community, and strangers via her writing and advocacy for dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa.

Megan passed away surrounded by her loving family at the University of Miami Hospital. She was born on January 26, 1991, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Richard E. Barron and Elizabeth Ward. Megan was born with dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa, an extremely severe skin condition that led her to write about her life experiences and further inspire others. She was an extremely talented young woman who was admired by many and always asserted her right for respect.

Regardless of the obstacles Megan encountered she remained positive and was a scholar who focused on her studies. Megan graduated salutatorian of Coral Springs High School in 2009. She went on to graduate from Trinity College of Arts and Sciences at Duke University in 2013. While at Duke, Megan was inducted into Phi Alpha Theta history honor society and she founded the Duke Disability Alliance.

Among her many accomplishments Megan was a National Merit Commended Scholar, a National Advanced Placement Scholar of Distinction and a Florida International University book award winner. She received the Miami Herald Silver Knight Award in general scholarship and the annual Spirit Award from the Dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa Research Association (DebRA) of America. Megan also interned with the White House, Senator BILL NELSON of Florida's legislative office and the Library of Congress. During her last two years Megan served as the Social Media Coordinator for the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD).

Megan was a model of comportment in the face of daunting adversity. Despite her illness, she never seemed to let it get in her way. She enjoyed history, food, flowers, travel, poetry, writing, the Pittsburgh Steelers, ballet, sailing, French culture, politics, and the arts. Megan is survived by her father Richard E. Barron, mother Elizabeth Ward, stepfather James Patrick Ward, and brother Jason R. Barron.

The poem below titled *The Butterfly Child* written by Megan back in 2003 perfectly depicts her inspiring persona and the way in which she served as a role model and inspiration to those that she met.

A fragile little butterfly
Whose been cursed but doesn't know why
Who sees the world through different eyes
And soars with the wings for the butterflies
For the precious little butterfly
Is different and she knows
That crying doesn't ever help
But sometimes her struggling shows
To be a butterfly in such a world
Where people are so vain

She tries to keep her chin up
She knows she can't complain.
Although her physical differences
Make life become a fight
She has been blessed in different ways
And sheds the world with light.

Though people are judgmental
To the precious butterfly
Her mind is one in a million
Her mind is her tool to fly

The curse has been put on the butterfly
Yes, she knows it's true
But she won't let it stop her
From soaring to the sky
The Miraculous little butterfly
Puts up a mighty fight
But that won't stand in this Butterflies way
From spreading her inspiring light

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in saying farewell to a young woman who embodied passion and inspiration, Ms. Megan Elizabeth Barron. Her genuine character and loving commitment to life will be greatly missed.

SUPPORTING TWIN CITIES PUBLIC
TELEVISION'S "BELIEVE IN
BLACK YOUTH" PROGRAMMING

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Twin Cities Public Television's efforts through the American Graduate initiative to provide Minnesota's African American youth with a platform to share their educational journeys, challenges, and success stories with our community.

American Graduate is a multi-year public media initiative through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting that aids local communities across America in finding solutions to the high school dropout crisis that plagues our nation.

I am proud that in Minnesota, Twin Cities Public Television's contribution to this national effort has been to explore not only the state's achievement gap in our African American community, but also the belief gap that fuels it. There is often a significant division in belief between what children and families of traditionally marginalized groups believe they can accomplish and what others in positions of power believe these youth are capable of. TPT's effort is aimed at exposing these barriers to success and providing youth with an opportunity to share their stories.

TPT's American Graduate supported programming is called "Believe in Black Youth," which includes segments on "Almanac," TPT's weekly public affairs program, online spots and much more. The cornerstone of TPT's efforts is a thirty minute documentary titled "Black Brilliance" which chronicles the journeys of five African American high school students to graduation and their dreams for the future. It is through stories like those told in "Black Brilliance" that TPT seeks to help change the narrative of a belief system about Minnesota's marginalized African American youth from one of inadequacy and disadvantage to one of value and worth.

Every student in America deserves the opportunity to receive a quality education, and

ensuring that all of our nation's children have the best chance for success in life is the most important job we have as leaders, teachers, parents, and Americans. I am truly pleased to see Twin Cities Public Television address these critical issues and advancing the voices of those in our community who have found it so difficult to have their voices heard.

HONORING ALBERT CHEN FOR HIS
LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 9, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Albert Chen on the occasion of his retirement. For 30 years Albert has served as Telamon Corporation's leader. He and his wife, Margaret, founded Telamon Corporation in 1985 and since then have turned it into a multi-million dollar company that employs hundreds of people and provides opportunities for people to do meaningful work. The Hoosier community is forever grateful for Albert's dedication to making Indiana a better place.

Albert, a Taiwan native, has been an innovator and successful business leader in Indiana for decades. After receiving his degree from National Cheng-Chi University in Taiwan, Albert came to America to pursue a career in business. He received his master's degree in Mathematical Sciences from Portland State University and started his business career with GTE on the west coast. He later relocated to Indiana to fill the role of Manager of the Midwest region for GTE. Albert and Margaret decided to lay roots and build their business in Carmel, Indiana.

Albert is the founder, Chairman of the Board, President, and CEO of Telamon Corporation, a company based in Carmel, Indiana. Telamon, a company whose mission is to simplify business for their clients, specializes in simplified solutions for telecommunication networks, business process outsourcing, energy management, industrial assembly, and telehealth services. Since its founding in 1985, Telamon has developed into one of the largest private companies in Indiana and is consistently ranked as one of the 500 fastest growing companies in the United States. The company employs over 1,400 people, has ten domestic locations and three international facilities, two of which are in China. Additionally, the company is involved with improving the local communities. They launched the Telamon Foundation, which places special emphasis on non-profit organizations that focus on arts and education.

Promoting diversity in employment and throughout business operations is an important priority to Telamon, and Albert is proud that his company is a certified Minority Business Enterprise. Albert, who is also a graduate of the Executive Minority Business Program at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business, takes pride in his heritage and has a passion for teaching Asians and Americans about each other, their diverse cultures and how to work together to build trust, share knowledge and create opportunities on U.S. soil and abroad. He established the America China Society of Indiana, which he created as a foundation to